

Federal and State Actions to Changes in Alert

NOTE: Actions are cumulative starting at GREEN level.

ALERT LEVEL	FEDERAL ACTIONS	STATE ACTIONS
RED (SEVERE)	<p>Response is primarily directed toward public safety and welfare and the preservation of human life, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning of specially trained teams ◆ Monitoring, redirecting or constraining transportation systems ◆ Closing public and governmental facilities ◆ Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If the threat is specific to Washington State, activate the state EOC to Phase IV operations, staffed with applicable state/federal agency representatives. ◆ If the threat is not specific to Washington State, activate the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to Phase III operations. ◆ Following assessment of the situation, if the event threatens or actually impacts the State of Washington, the Governor issues a proclamation of a state of emergency. ◆ Activation of a Joint Information Center (JIC) to include representatives from affected areas and agencies.
ORANGE (HIGH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Crisis management response will focus on law enforcement actions taken in the interest of public safety and welfare, and is predominantly concerned with preventing and resolving the threat. ◆ Consequence management response will focus on contingency planning and pre-positioning of tailored resources, as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If the threat is specific to Washington State, activate the state EOC to Phase III operations, staffed with applicable state/federal agency representatives. ◆ If the threat is not specific to Washington State, provide double State Emergency Operations Officer (SEOO) staffing of the Alert and Warning Center. ◆ Prepare to, and if necessary, activate a JIC near the threatened area. Coordinate the release of information with appropriate local, county, state, tribal and federal agencies.
YELLOW (ELEVATED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increasing surveillance of critical areas. ◆ Coordinating emergency plans with related agencies. ◆ Assessing further refinement of protective measures within the context of the current threat information. ◆ Implementing, as appropriate, contingency plans and emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If the threat is specific to Washington State, activate the state EOC to Phase II enhanced operations and staff with additional SEOO. ◆ If the threat is not specific to Washington State, activate state EOC to Phase I. ◆ Update staff and agency liaison contacts list.

	response plans.	♦ Provide Public Information Officer (PIO) coverage.
BLUE (GUARDED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations. ♦ Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures. ♦ Providing the public with necessary information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ All state agencies prepared to staff the EOC as required. ♦ Normal operations with 24-hour EOC and SEOO. ♦ Additional staff alerted to the increased threat level.
GREEN (LOW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Refining and exercising preplanned protective measures. ♦ Ensuring personnel receive training on the Homeland Security Advisory System, departmental, or agency-specific protective measures. ♦ Regularly assessing facilities with vulnerabilities and taking measures to reduce them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Normal operations with 24-hour EOC and SEOO.

State Emergency Operations Center Phases

Phase I - Routine Operations

Incidents are handled by the duty officer in cooperation with other local, state and federal agencies. Other staff may be involved as advisors if needed for specific expertise. The Duty Officer responds to incidents following established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as outlined in the Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division Duty Officer Standard Operating Procedures.

Phase II - Enhanced Operations (Alert Stage)

An incident is or could potentially grow beyond the capability of the Duty Officer to handle. In this instance the Duty Officer, along with selected staff, are tasked to support the incident from the state EOC. At this phase, one or more persons may be initially tasked to provide specific emergency functions.

During this phase, the Duty Officer will continue to monitor and process other requests for assistance, separate from the incident that has caused activation of the EOC.

As a general rule, transition from Phase I to Phase II will automatically occur when:

- A local jurisdiction has activated its EOC
- The Division has deployed staff to the field
- Intelligence data indicates the potential for an emergency that is or

may grow beyond the capability of affected local jurisdictions

Actions to be taken at this time may include:

- ◆ Response agencies actively assess the situation, gather intelligence from the field, and prepare to respond to the state and/or the affected local jurisdiction.
- ◆ The state EOC and other agency emergency operations functions are staffed in preparation for full activation. Key state agencies may be requested to send representatives to state EOC.
- ◆ Liaisons are dispatched to local EOCs, field incident command centers or emergency-operating facilities (EOFs) as they are activated and requested by the local jurisdictions.
- ◆ Notification of the event and the alert actions are made to various government agencies and jurisdictions.
- ◆ The Governor's Communication Director disseminates public information regarding the state's alert actions. Information is provided to the Governor's Communication Director by the Military Department public affairs staff.
- ◆ The Governor, members of the Crisis Management Team, and/or state response personnel assess the potential emergency. Actions may include fly-over, ground visits to affected areas, consultations via phone with elected officials (e.g. neighboring governors, county commissioners), and other public appearances.

If additional staff support is required, the EOC Supervisor will have the authority to escalate to Phase III EOC activation or implement any other level of staffing that the situation may require.

Phase III - Full Operation

An incident's size and complexity requires representation in the EOC by appropriate state and outside agencies and organizations to support expanded operations. The number of staff and the agencies represented will vary by incident. In this phase, the level of activity dictates that normal EMD staff functions cease and all personnel support the incident.

Possible actions to be taken at this time include:

- ◆ The state EOC and other emergency operations functions are fully activated, with representation from appropriate state agencies,

along with necessary federal agencies, local government and volunteer organizations. Requests from local governments for state assistance are prioritized and fulfilled commensurate with available resources.

- ◆ If requested, liaisons are dispatched to the field as the local EOCs or incident command centers are activated.
- ◆ The Crisis Management Team continues to assess the emergency, oversee state emergency actions, and advise the Governor's Chief of Staff. In most cases, the Disaster Manager in the EOC will coordinate the actions of the Crisis Management Team and the Governor's Office during an emergency.
- ◆ If a formal proclamation of a state of emergency is recommended, the Governor's Chief of Staff will be briefed and provided the draft proclamation.
- ◆ Formal actions the Governor may take include, but are not limited to a proclamation of a state of emergency, activation of the National Guard, requests for Presidential Declaration, etc.
- ◆ The Governor, Crisis Management Team, and/or emergency response personnel continue to oversee and assess the emergency response. Actions may include fly-over, ground visits, and briefings by state agencies, etc.
- ◆ Continued notifications to local governments, neighboring states, federal agencies and provinces are made, informing them of state emergency actions and coordinating responses.
- ◆ The Governor's Communication Director activates public information team to handle all public information activities (from the state EOC and other locations as necessary).
- ◆ The Governor's Office and Crisis Management Team provide stakeholder management and maintain contact with neighboring states, the White House, the Congressional Delegation and State Legislators.

Phase IV - Catastrophic Operations

A major catastrophic event has occurred that exceeds the capability of state and local government to provide timely and effective response to meet the needs of the situation. An event of this magnitude could cause numerous casualties, property loss, and disruption of normal life support systems and significantly impact the regional economic, physical, and social infrastructures. As a general rule, transition to this phase occurs when the EOC is conducting response operations.

Actions to be taken at this time may include:

- ◆ The state EOC and other incident command posts are fully activated with representation from appropriate state agencies, along with necessary federal agencies, local government and volunteer organizations. Requests from local governments for state and federal assistance are prioritized and fulfilled commensurate with available resources and proclamations.
- ◆ One or more selected state level Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) has been activated to respond to the situation.
- ◆ FEMA Region X is notified and a Regional Operations Center (ROC) activated to establish links with the state EOC until the Federal Emergency Response Team (ERT) is established in the field.
- ◆ A Governor's Proclamation of a state of emergency is in effect and pending approval of a Presidential Declaration to allow use of federal assets.
- ◆ The Crisis Management Team continues to assess the emergency, oversee state emergency actions, and advise the Governor's Chief of Staff.
- ◆ The Governor, Crisis Management Team, and/or emergency response personnel continue to oversee and assess the emergency response. Actions may include fly-over, ground visits, and briefings by state agencies, etc.
- ◆ Continued notifications to local governments, neighboring states, federal agencies and provinces are made, informing them of state emergency actions and coordinating responses.
- ◆ The Governor's Communication Director activates a public information team and continues to handle all public information activities (from the state EOC and other locations as necessary).

- ◆ The Governor's Office and Crisis Management Team provide stakeholder management and maintain contact with neighboring states, the White House, the Congressional Delegation and State Legislators.